

Poliomyelitis in the United States, 1953

The number of poliomyelitis cases reported in the United States in 1953 was 35,592, approximately 40 percent below the number for 1952. The estimated death rate in 1953, based on a

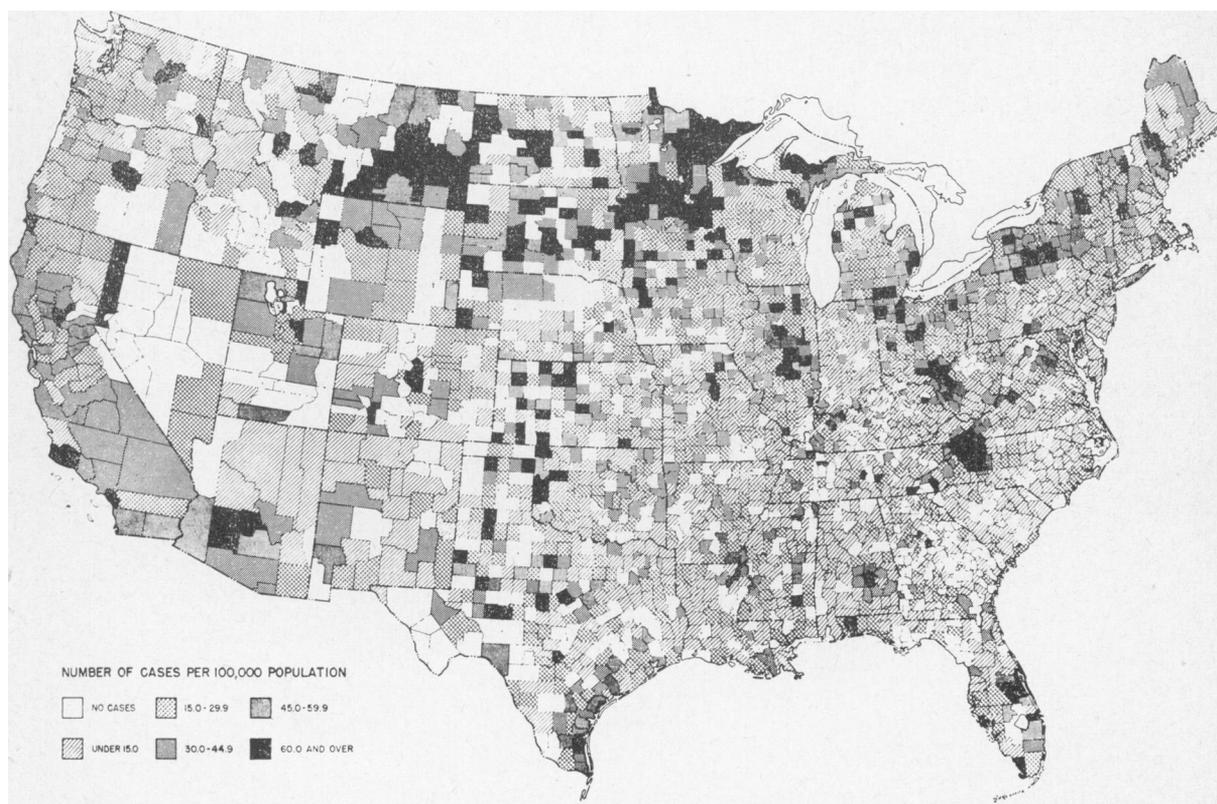
10-percent sample, was 1.1, a similar decrease for mortality as for incidence. The numbers of cases reported, case rates, and death rates per 100,000 population for the 5-year period 1949-53 are shown below.

Dr. C. C. Dauer, medical adviser of the National Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Service, continues the annual report series on poliomyelitis in the United States. The map accompanying this report was prepared under the supervision of Ida L. Sherman, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga.

	Number cases reported	Case rate	Death rate
1953	35,592	22.5	¹ 1.1
1952	57,879	37.2	2.0
1951	28,386	18.5	1.0
1950	33,300	22.1	1.3
1949	42,033	28.3	1.8

¹ Estimated.

The following States reported the largest number of cases in 1953: California 4,078 cases;



Distribution of poliomyelitis in the United States by county, 1953.

New York 2,984; Ohio 2,635; Michigan 2,346; and Minnesota 2,254. However, the States with the highest rates of incidence were: Minnesota with a rate of 73.9 cases per 100,000 population; Arizona 45.2; Montana 40.6; Maine 35.9; and Rhode Island 35.5. In 1952 the rates for the five States with the highest incidence were far in excess of those for 1953. In 1952 Nebraska had the highest rate with 166.9; South Dakota 154.1; Minnesota 137.1; Iowa 137.0; and Kansas 87.2.

Of the 35,592 cases in 1953, 44 percent were reported as paralytic, 34 percent nonparalytic, and in the remaining 22 percent, the type of

disease was not stated. In 1952 the proportions were 37 percent paralytic, 22 percent nonparalytic, and 41 percent unspecified.

The distribution of cases by counties for 1953 is shown in the accompanying map. This shows a number of localized areas of high incidence particularly in the northern part of the country. The most extensive areas were in Minnesota and Montana. Some epidemic areas involved adjoining counties of two or more States. One area was located in western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia. Another area included counties in southern Ohio and western West Virginia.

For Parents' Information

Six illustrated leaflets for parents have been issued by the Children's Bureau, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The titles are: *Your Children's Feet and Footwear*; *The Child With a Cleft Palate*; *The Child With Cerebral Palsy*; *The Child Who Is Hard of Hearing*; *The Preschool Child Who Is Blind*; and *The Child With Epilepsy*.

One of the series, *Your Children's Feet and Footwear*, stresses the importance of fitting shoes to feet, rather than feet to shoes. Illustrations show desirable types of shoes for children at different stages. Parents are cautioned against indiscriminate use of X-ray machines as a means of determining a good fit in children's shoes.

Copies of the leaflets may be purchased, for 10 cents each, from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.